Try a Sample Search

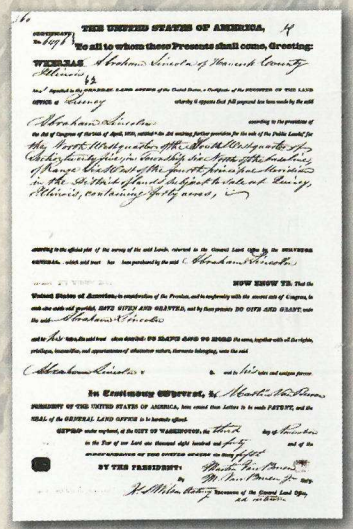
In 1839 and 1840, Abraham Lincoln purchased land in Illinois from the U.S. government. Try this sample search to see copies of Abraham Lincoln's land purchases.

Step 1: Go to www.glorecords.blm.gov.

Step 2: Click on "Search Documents." Select Illinois for the state. Type Lincoln in the last name category and Abraham in the first name category.

Step 3: Click on "Search Patents" to view the three land patents issued to Lincoln in 1839 and 1840.

Step 4: Click on the "Image" icon to view one of the patents. You can save or print the PDF file, or you may order a certified copy.


THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS

NOW KNOW YE, That the

In Testimony Whereof,

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Tour the Vaults

Visitors to the BLM-Eastern States can tour the fireproof vaults to examine these timeless documents.

Within the land title records, you can see field notes handwritten by GLO surveyors, describing interactions with Native tribes, experiences with wild animals, and accounts of the landscapes in which they worked.

At the bindery, watch while craftsmen repair and preserve the original paper, before rebinding the tract books using historic tools and methods. Tours may be arranged Monday through Friday, during regular business hours. Please call ahead to schedule a tour.

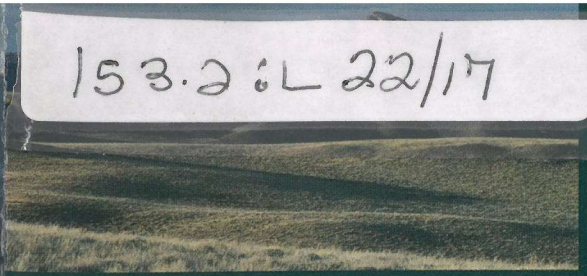
General Land Office Records

Patricia M. Tyler
BLM-Eastern States
7450 Boston Blvd.
Springfield, VA 22153
(703) 440-1786
www.blm.gov/es/
www.glorecords.blm.gov

BLM/WO/GI-12/010+2000

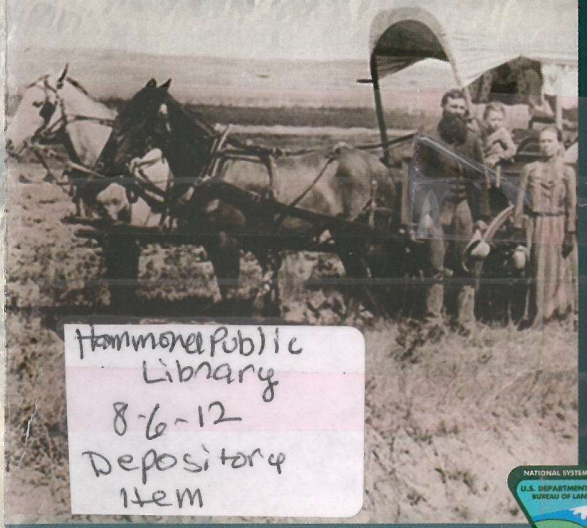
153.2:L 22/17

BLM



Gateway to Land Ownership

Join the Bureau of Land Management to Commemorate the Establishment of the General Land Office



Hammond Public Library
8-6-12
Depository Item

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BLM-Eastern States

0621

An American Legacy of Land Ownership

The General Land Office (GLO) of the United States was established on April 25, 1812, to respond to a growing land business that was enabled by the Land Ordinance of 1785, which established that lands were to be systematically surveyed. With the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862, millions of Americans were able to settle the land, their descendants were able to work the land, and legacies were created for American families.

For 134 years, the GLO conducted the surveys that facilitated the sale or transfer of public lands across America. In 1946, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was created by the merger of the GLO with the Grazing Service.

As the Secretary of the Interior's custodian of the original United States land survey and settlement records, the BLM-Eastern States is home to more than nine million records that chronicle the transfer of public land into private ownership.

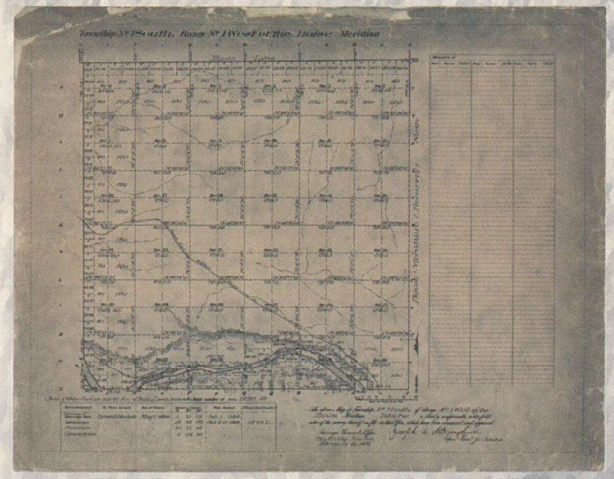
Today, the BLM-Eastern States in Springfield, Virginia, is preserving these historical records while making them available for public research and review. These documents tell the rich history of the American frontier, beginning with public lands transactions in the states east of the Mississippi River through the settlement of the West.

Commemorating the GLO and the Homestead Act

The BLM is participating with partners and communities throughout 2012 to bring the message of the "Gateway to Land Ownership" to the American public—the 200th anniversary of the GLO and the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act. For information on events, meetings, and commemorations, visit www.blm.gov/es.

200 Years and Counting

For 200 years, the land title records have been preserved and maintained by the GLO and, later, the BLM. Since entering the digital age, the millions of documents are now being scanned and indexed, making them widely accessible through the BLM General Land Office Records Automation website, www.glorecords.blm.gov.

From home, work, or school, users can:

- Conduct land title searches
- Research family history
- Examine survey plats, homestead patents, and railroad grants
- Settle questions of ownership
- Download and print copies of historic documents and order certified copies